Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

IVERSON, JOHN B. 1980. *Kinosternon acutum.*

Kinosternon acutum Gray
Tabasco mud turtle

Kinosternon scorpioides var. *acuta* Gray, 1831:34. Type-locality undesignated, restricted to "British Honduras" [=Belize] by Schmidt (1941:476) [see COMMENT]. Holotype, British Mus. (Natur. Hist.) 1947.3.4.58, male, collector and data unknown (not examined by author).

Cinosternum berendtianum Cope, 1865:189. Type-locality, "Tabasco," Mexico. Syntypes: U.S. Nat. Mus. 6517 (now numbered 106293 and 106294), male shells, collected in 1864 by C. H. Berendt (syntypes examined by author).

Cinosternon berendtianum: Troschel, 1866:183.

Swanka maculata (part) Gray, 1869:182. Type-localities, "Mexico," in "Papalco Apoia" (fide data with Mexican specimens, = Cosamaloapam, Veracruz, Mexico) and "Vera Paz," Guatemala. Syntypes: British Mus. (Natur. Hist.) 1946.1.22.73–74, (*K. acutum*), males, Cosamaloapam, collected by M. Salle; British Mus. (Natur. Hist.) 1946.1.22.25 (= *K. leucostomum*), male and female, same data; and British Mus. (Natur. Hist.) 1946.1.22.71–72 (= *K. leucostomum*), females, from Vera Paz, collected by O. Salvin (syntypes not examined by author).

Cinosternon effeldtii Peters, 1873:603. Type-locality, "angeblich aus Mexico [Veracruz]"; restricted to "Cosamaloapam, Veracruz" by Smith and Taylor (1950a:23, 1950b:347). Holotype, Zool. Mus., Berlin 7868, female, collected by Rudolf Effeldt (examined by author).

Cinosternum effeldtii: Günther, 1885:13.

Cinosternum leucostomum (part): Günther, 1885: Pl. 17.

Cinosternum effeldti: Gadow, 1905:194.

Kinosternon berendtianum: Rust, 1934:59.

Kinosternon acutum: Stejneger, 1941:457. First use of present combination.

Kinosternon berentianum: Duellman, 1965:591. Lapsus.

Kinosternun acutum: Alvarez del Toro, 1973:165.

• CONTENT. *Kinosternon acutum* is a monotypic species.

• DEFINITION. Adult females reach approximately 120 mm in carapace length, males only 105 mm. The adult carapace is usually unicarinate, but a faint pair of lateral keels is sometimes present in subadults. The first vertebral scute is in contact with the second marginal, and the fourth pleural scute usually touches the eleventh marginal. The tenth and eleventh marginals are elevated above the level of the preceding marginals. The maximum shell height is less than 45% of the carapace length. The carapace is brown to black in color and has the dark seams. The double hinged plastron is not emarginate posteriorly. The gular scute length exceeds 50% of the plastron forelobe length. The interabdominal seam length is greater than 27% of the maximum plastron length and 80% of the forelobe length. The forelobe length is 27 to 33% of the carapace length. The anterior width of the plastron hindlobe is 38 to 45% of the carapace length, and the bridge length exceeds 29% of the carapace length. The plastron and bridge are yellow to light brown with darker brown seams. The skin varies in color from gray to yellow or red. Yellow to red markings are always apparent on the limbs and on the head from the temporal region posteriorly onto the neck. The light color on the head, neck and limbs is often obliterated by brown to black mottling. The chin color varies from white to yellow, and is mottled with brown or black. The nasal scale covers most of the dorsal surface of the skull. Adult females possess lighter chins, and short, stubby tails. Males have darker chins and long, thick tails. Both sexes have tail spines and lack tuberculate scales (clasping organs) on the posterior surface of the crus and thigh of each hind leg.

• DESCRIPTIONS. General descriptions are in Cope (1865), Bocourt (1876), Günther (1885), Boulenger (1889), Siebenrock (1907, 1909), Neill (1965), Pritchard (1967, 1979), Iverson (1976), and Smith and Smith (1980).

• ILLUSTRATIONS. Black and white photographs of adults appear in Neill (1965), and Pritchard (1967, 1979). Gray (1831), Peters (1873), Günther (1885), and Wermuth and Mertens (1961) provide drawings of the adult.

• DISTRIBUTION. *Kinosternon acutum* is found throughout the lowlands of the Caribbean versant from central Veracruz, Mexico, eastward through northern Guatemala and Belize, but excluding the Yucatan Peninsula. Specific localities appear in Smith and Smith (1980).

• FOSSIL RECORD. None.

• PERTINENT LITERATURE. General accounts of the biology are lacking. Other references include taxonomy (Stejneger, 1941); habitat (Stuart, 1935); nesting (data of questionable origin; Cope, 1865); choanal structure (Parsons, 1968); musk glands (Waagen, 1972); and rostral pores (Winokur and Legler, 1974).

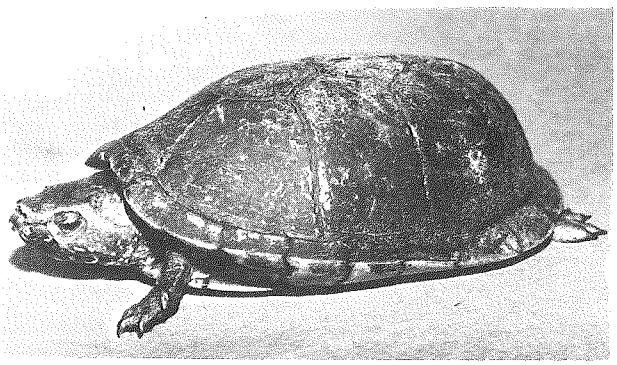


FIGURE 1. Adult male *Kinosternon acutum* from Belize (J. B. Iverson pers. coll. no. 595).

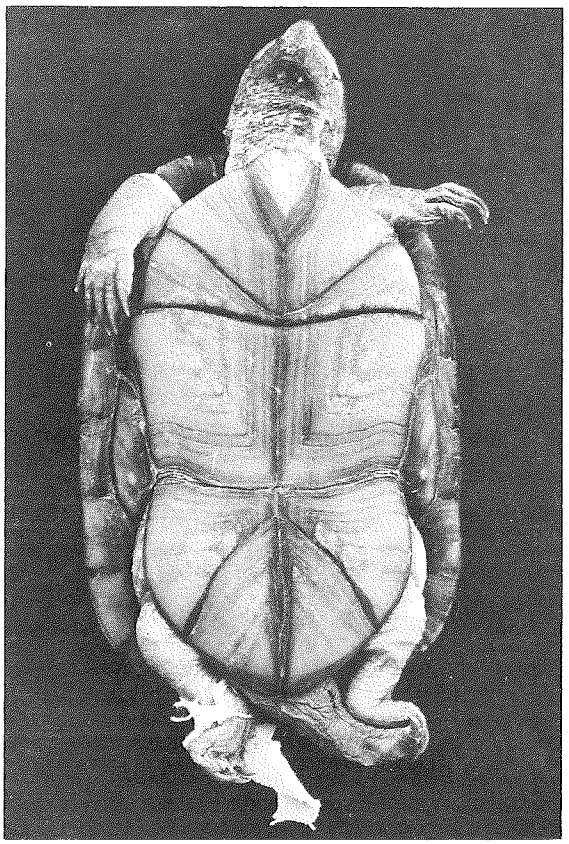
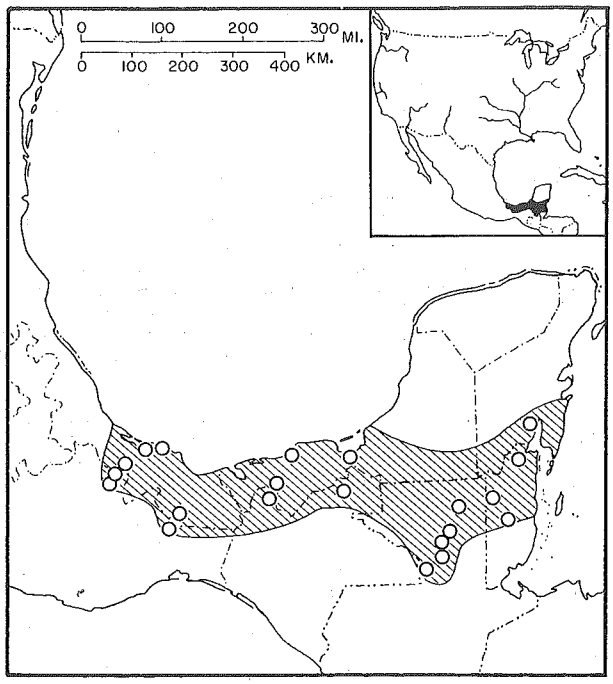


FIGURE 2. Adult male *Kinosternon acutum* from Quintana Roo, Mexico (Strecker Mus. 11448).



MAP. Circles mark actual records; shaded area estimates total range. Type-locality not specific enough to plot.

• ETYMOLOGY. The specific name *acutum* is from the Latin *acuta*, meaning acute or pointed and refers to the pointed unnotched posterior margin of the plastron.

COMMENT

Although Gray (1831) provided no type-locality in the original description, the data accompanying the holotype read "Central America." This information was first published by Gray (1844:33) but Parker (in Stejneger, 1941:458) found evidence that the specimen originated in "Honduras." Because *Kinosternon acutum* was unknown from Honduras, Schmidt (1941) first reasoned that the locality should be restricted to British Honduras (now Belize). The restriction of the type-locality to "Cosamaloapan, Veracruz" by Smith and Taylor (1950a:23 and 1950b:347) is unacceptable because of Schmidt's (1941) prior restriction, although it is logical on distributional grounds.

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